

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1        1. A method for a server that manages bandwidth of a remote link, comprising:  
2                assigning a portion of the bandwidth to at least one application group; and  
3                metering packets belonging to the application group.
- 1        2. The method of claim 1 wherein the server is a VPN server.
- 1        3. The method of claim 1 wherein the server is directly connected to other links having  
2                larger bandwidth than the available bandwidth of the remote link.
- 1        4. The method of claim 1 wherein the packets belonging to the application group share a  
2                pre-defined configuration.
- 1        5. The method of claim 1 wherein the packets belonging to the application group  
2                contend equally for the portion of the bandwidth.
- 1        6. The method of claim 1 wherein metering the packets group further includes metering  
2                flow rate of the packets going through the server in either direction.
- 1        7. The method of claim 6 wherein metering the packets further includes rejecting the  
2                packets if the flow rate exceeds the portion of the assigned bandwidth.
- 1        8. The method of claim 1 further comprising allowing a user to specify the bandwidth of  
2                the remote link from a user interface.
- 1        9. The method of claim 1 further comprising allowing a user to specify the portion of  
2                the assigned bandwidth from a user interface.
- 1        10. A system for managing bandwidth of a remote link comprising:  
2                a server  
3                a contention pool having a portion of the bandwidth for at least one application group;  
4                and

5           a meter for metering the packets belonging to the application group.

1       11. The system of claim 10 wherein the server is a VPN server.

1       12. The system of claim 10 wherein the server is directly connected to other links having  
2       larger bandwidth than the available bandwidth of the remote link.

1       13. The system of claim 10 wherein the packets belonging to the application group share  
2       a pre-defined configuration.

1       14. The system of claim 10 wherein the packets belonging to the application group  
2       contend equally for the contention pool.

1       15. The system of claim 10 wherein the meter further meters flow rate of the packets  
2       going through the server in either direction.

1       16. The system of claim 15 wherein the meter further rejects the packets if the flow rate  
2       exceeds the assigned portion of the bandwidth.

1       17. The system of claim 10 further comprising a user interface that allows a user to  
2       specify the bandwidth of the link.

1       18. The system of claim 10 further comprising a user interface that allows a user to  
2       specify the assigned portion of the bandwidth.